

Nottingham Deco



The Deco by Nottingham Analog Studio is the culmination of a lifetime spent advancing the state of LP playback. This newest Nottingham turntable not only incorporates over forty years of experience, but for the first time couples that with what was essentially an unlimited budget. The product brief was to make the best turntable possible, period.

Technical Details

- The platter is made of soft alloy. Its outside edge is stepped and the center bore is tapered to spread the resonance over a wide frequency band.
- The inner wall of the bearing sleeve is grooved. This allows it to act like a pump, distributing the oil to ensure that *all* of the bearing surfaces are lubricated *all* of the time. These grooves also allow trapped air to escape as the platter settles during initial assembly.
- The oil used in the Deco bearing has been specifically formulated for the Deco's "pumping" bearing and is not recommend for use in other Nottingham models.
- The suspension has two modes – on and off. No fine tuning of the suspension is necessary. The suspension is engaged by rotating the four suspension pods and freeing the upper plinth.

- The tension on the arm board (which is necessary to provide a stable platform and yet still offer VTA adjustment on the fly) is created by using a “falling weight” principle. If there was no tension, the assembly would rattle. If springs or rubber were used the tension would vary with arm height, changing the resonant frequency (and therefore performance) as the arm was adjusted. These problems are avoided by using a large mass and gravity to provide constant tension that is totally independent of arm height. Internal viscous damping is provided to deal with any residual resonance issues.
- The pad between the graphite matt and the platter is manufactured from a proprietary material and forms a bond between the matt and the platter. The series of grooves in the top surface of the platter facilitates the movement of air as the pad is fitted to the platter, ensuring that proper contact is achieved.
- The power supply incorporates circuitry similar to that used in the Nottingham Wave Mechanic, supplied with the Dais turntable. However, because of the extra resolving capabilities of the Deco, additional sonic benefits are possible through fine adjustment of the symmetry of the driving current. Generally there is an assumption that each side for the motor armature is identical and will generate identical force with even power applied to both sides. In fact, motor windings are rarely identical. The additional knob on the dedicated Deco power supply allows for the fine tuning of the current distribution. Since there is no easy way of measuring the small variations in motor armatures, this adjustment can only be carried out by ear, and only after all other aspects of the turntable set-up and adjustment have been attended to.

Specifications

Speeds:	33 1/3 & 45
Shipping Weight:	140 lbs
Price:	\$34,995